



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

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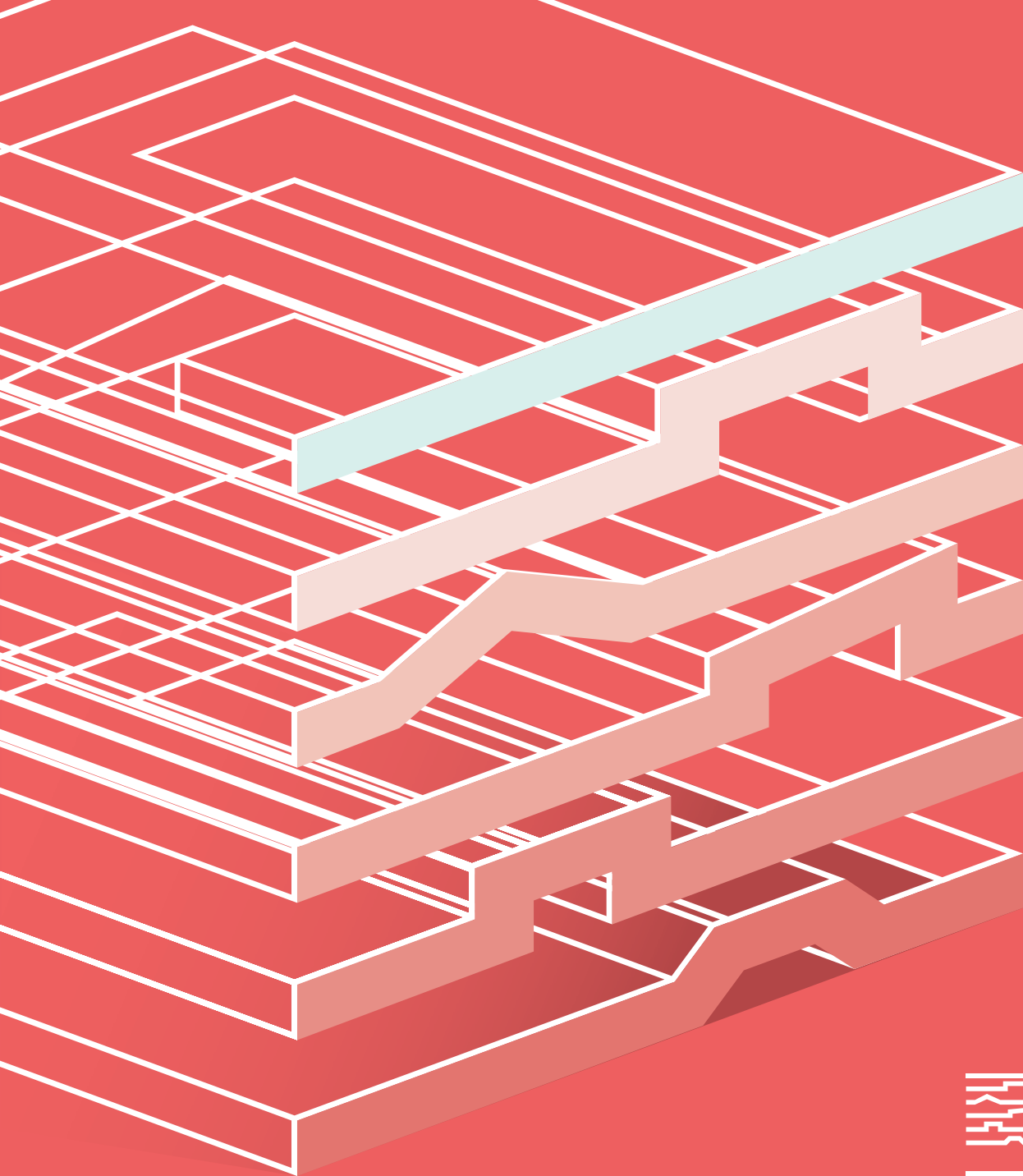
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 Street
Society

2017



SCHOOL OF
NATURAL AND
BUILT ENVIRONMENT,
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

Street Society was devised and founded in
2010 by Ruth Morrow

Street Society 2017 project manager: Ryan Hamill

Street Society 2017 curator: Mirjami Schuppert

Street Society 2017 is a Queen's University Belfast Live
Project supported by the Department for Communities
with funding under the Northern Ireland Executive's
Urban Villages Initiative.

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Queen's Architectural Press 2017





A week of Live Projects at the School of
Natural and Built Environment,
Queen's University Belfast

Street Society

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Introduction

RUTH MORROW

Professor of Architecture

Street Society is a weeklong design event facilitated by architecture staff from the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast. As an annual outreach project since 2010, it brings clients from not-for-profit community and voluntary sectors together with talented students of architecture, to produce in five days something remarkable and stimulating.

For the second year, Street Society has been supported by the Department of Communities with funding from Northern Ireland Executive's Urban Villages Initiative. Street Society contributes to the Urban Villages' strategy for community consultation and engagement. As such, Street Society 2017 involved approximately 100 Architecture students: a mixture of 1st year undergraduate architecture students and 1st year masters students, working in teams with local community organisations across all five of the Urban Villages in Northern Ireland. The Urban Villages areas, as defined by the Executive, are areas of high deprivation but equally they represent areas of high potential.

The chief purpose of Street Society is as a place of shared learning. The students learn from one another and from the clients, and the clients gain insight into the process of design and the value of their built environment. This open learning- design process does not result in deliverable architectural solutions, instead it is about demonstrating possibilities; capturing ideas that already exist at community level; and exposing their value. The process places students

and the interested community on the same level. There is no hierarchy in the working relationship. Ideas, needs and aspirations are voiced, listened to and, with skill and youthful passion, translated into proposals.

Street Society can not (and does not want to) compete with practicing architects or community consultation processes. Instead the students, together with their clients, demonstrate and achieve in one week an enthusiasm for listening and learning, and an ability to visually capture ideas, releasing new potentials and new futures.

The outputs of Street Society are sketches, plans, 3-D images, maps, models, artifacts and ideas: some of which may become embedded in community plans; inform funding bids; or lead further down the line to built initiatives. But the really valuable outcomes are richer awareness and new relationships between community organisations, neighbourhoods and future built environment professionals: a dialogue about the built environment at street level.



The Urban Villages Initiative

The Urban Villages Initiative brings the skill and resources of strategic partners like Queen's to impact areas with a history of deprivation and community tension. This work not only supports the Urban Village aim of improving the physical environment through the generation of creative and innovative ideas; but the presence of the student groups in the Urban Village areas, and their co-design approach with local people, also creates an environment to foster positive community identities and build community capacity.

The Street Society students worked in local venues, to briefs set by local community clients, for just one week. During this short period, the students were challenged to develop creative solutions across a range of real life issues, including addressing derelict buildings, landscaping, connectivity and improving community relations through shared space solutions.

After this intense working period, students presented their ideas in the form of models, sketches, 3D images, and maps, in a quantum and with energy and insight that belied the duration of the project. The successful

outcome saw a real connection with community representatives and projects that envisioned and equipped community groups to take their initial ideas to a level beyond their expectations.

"The Urban Village Initiative is designed to unlock potential and transform areas which have seen years of decline and deprivation. The Street Society Live project provides architecture students from Queen's University Belfast with a unique opportunity to take an active role in shaping the future of the places where they live and work. This inclusive and innovative approach has not only provided the students with personal and professional development opportunities but has helped to inform transformation of the physical environment of the Urban Village areas."

Linsey Farrell, Programme Director, Urban Villages Initiative

For the second year QUB Street Society Live Project has been supported by Department for Communities with funding from the Urban Village Initiative, and in the past two years, students have worked across all five Urban Village areas in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry.





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LOCATION

Derry Londonderry

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The Journey In The Fountain

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CLIENT

New Gate Arts and Culture Centre

STUDENT GROUP

Aaron Farrell, Anne McCloskey, Jourdan McKee (MArch)
Sarah Robinson, Louise Weston, Clarrisa Moore, Emily Mussen, Frankie Logan (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

The brief for this project was to look at the wider context of the Fountain in an effort to uncover some of the underlying problems that the community is facing. The students looked in detail at the streets closest to the edge of the city. The impact of improving the nature of these streets would hopefully improve the look and feel of the Fountain area. The Bonfire site was studied in detail to change the public perception of the site by making it an area of cultural celebration rather than desolation.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project has sought to reinterpret historical references from the Fountain. The students have uncovered the history of the Arches that would have been placed around the Fountain. These have been reinterpreted by the students. We propose to reinstall these historic arches in prominent locations providing a journey through the Fountain.

Dereliction is a major problem in the Fountain. The housing stock that has been built up over 160 years is now largely in a state of disrepair. To address this would take years. We came up with an idea about improving the surrounding streets as a means of re-energising the area, making it attractive for young families to move in to the houses. The aim of the project is allowing the street to enter the houses. Historically the Fountain streets would have been full of activity and by allowing the street to re-enter the houses, we are flipping this original relationship in order to expand the street and facilitate activity. The Bonfire site in the Fountain is an area of particular impact for this project. The miniature-masterplan for the area starts with improving the Bonfire site as a place to celebrate the culture year-round.

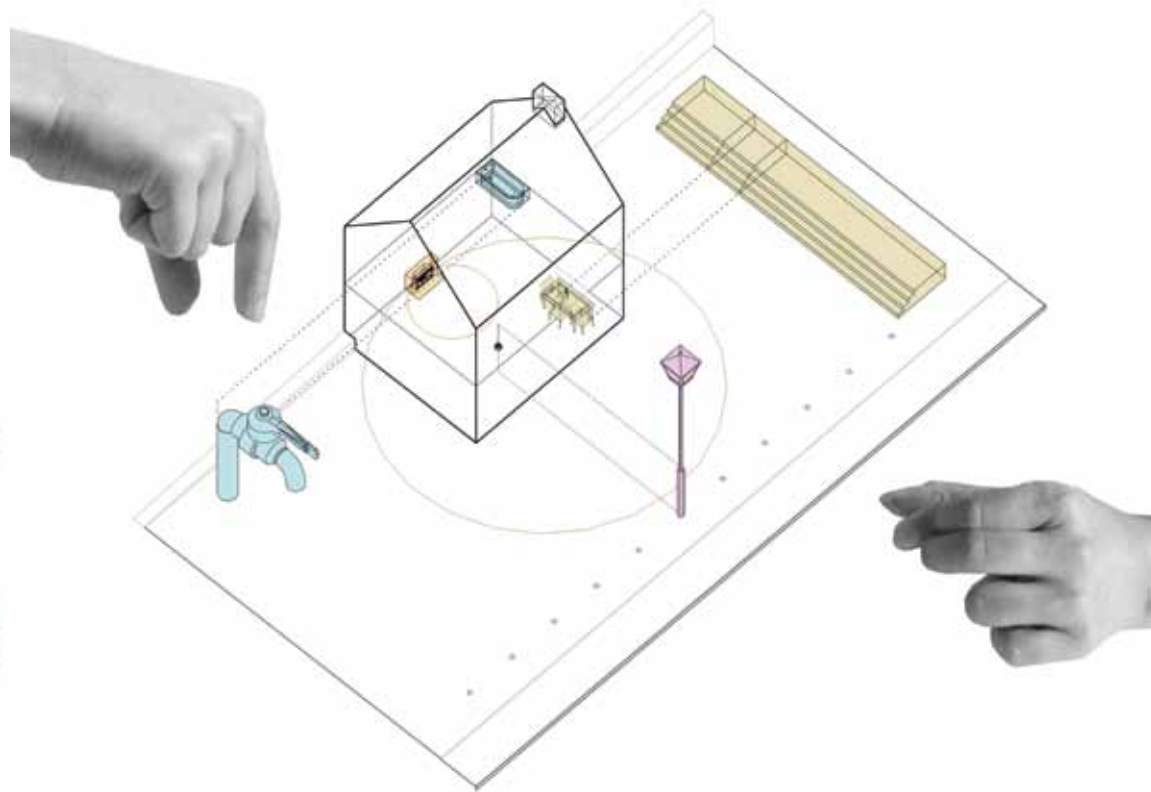
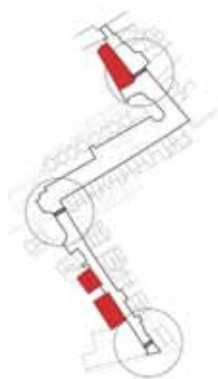
PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

The process on the project began through conversations with the client in order to understand the needs of the area. From there we worked over plans and drawings to organise our thoughts collectively on paper. The process has enabled us to work around the same desk designing and drawing as we go.

REFLECTIONS

From conversations with our clients in Derry/Londonderry there is a clear feeling of discontent with the allocation of funds to the area. There is no shortage of ideas in Derry to improve the area, however it is the lack of funding that is holding a lot of these communities back. In spite of this, there have been impressive and concrete steps towards improving the areas that the Urban Villages Initiative focuses on.







Meenan Square

CLIENT

Dove House

STUDENT GROUP

Ursula Dickson, John Gallagher (MArch)

Haomin Li, Mohammad Gholami, Sejin Kwon, Jie Leen Chong, Deboragh Kane (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

In conversations with both Urban Villages Team and Dove House, various issues, hopes and ideas were discussed. The main driver for the site was to create a building that connects to the community and brings people together: always ensuring a place for youth and community to learn, socialise, develop skills and create a space for advice and exhibition. A building that would encourage and motivate the local community to engage not just with each other but with the rest of Derry/ Londonderry city.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

By taking into consideration what was highlighted during various conversations with the client, we approached the idea stage of the project by producing quick, sketchy ideas as a group that responded both to the space and the surrounding context. Through the use of hand sketching, models and massing diagrams we further developed these responses that led to the development of three conceptual design proposals.

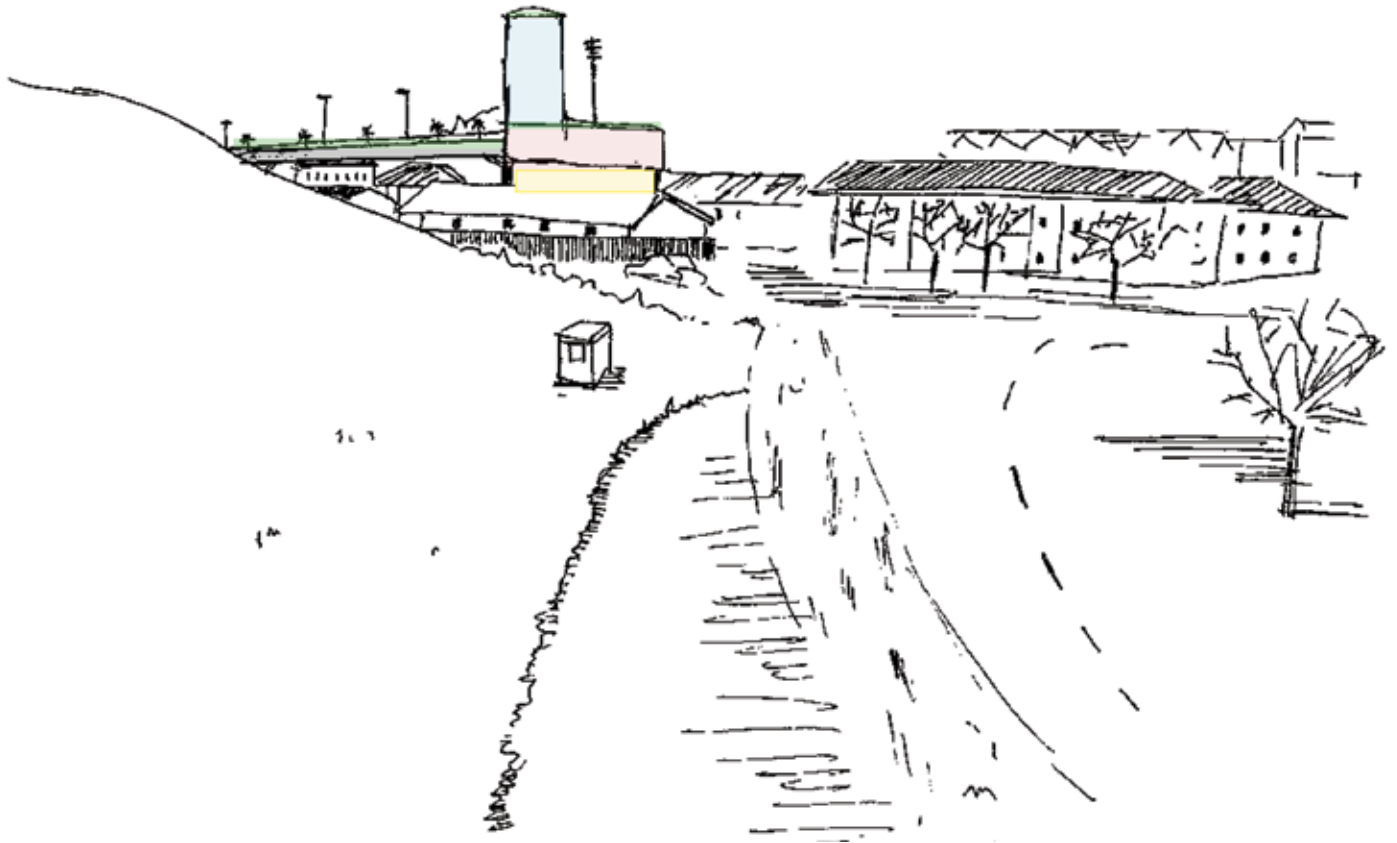
All schemes embody a program merged with an architectural intervention including a bridge stretching over the busy neighbouring road, a circular plan that turns its back on nobody and a raised tall element that acts as a beacon to the rest of the city.

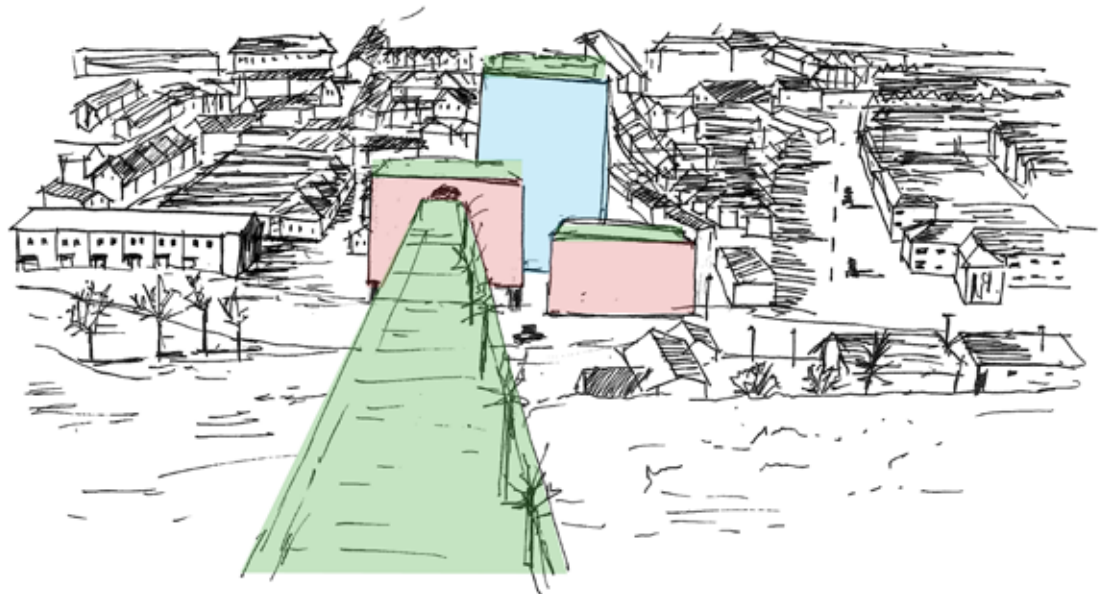
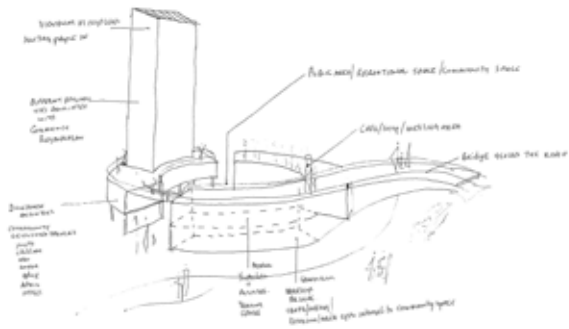
We want to create a sense of community, a place of learning and of connections, whether physical or visual, back to the centre of Derry/Londonderry. Our proposal represents a

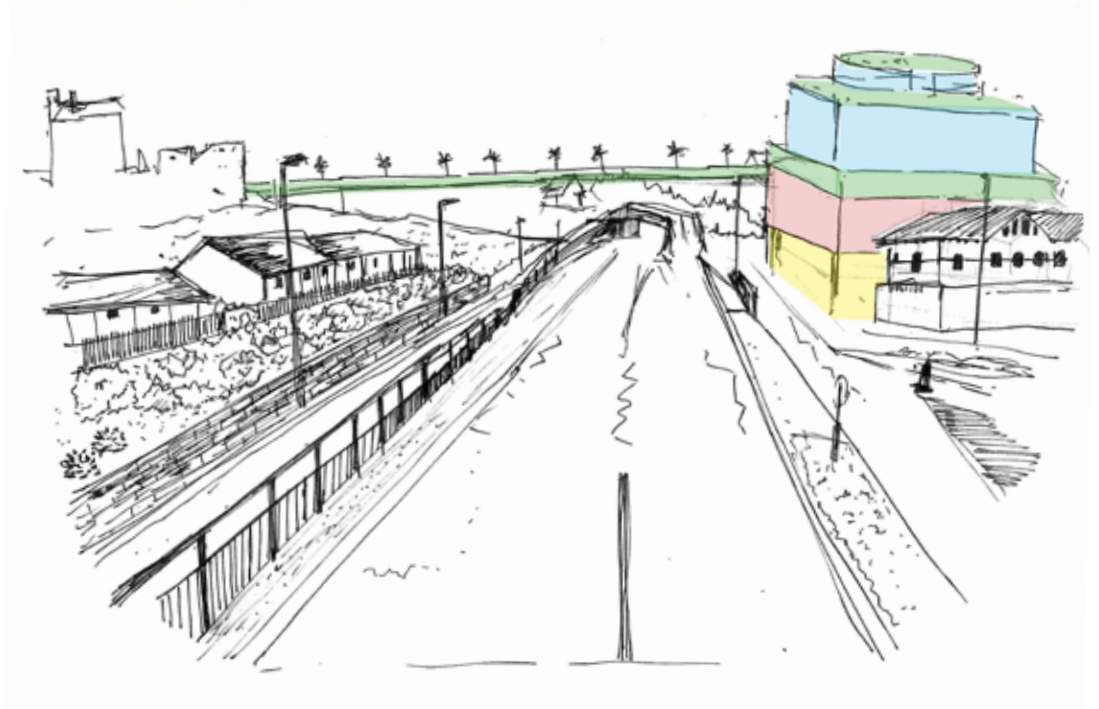
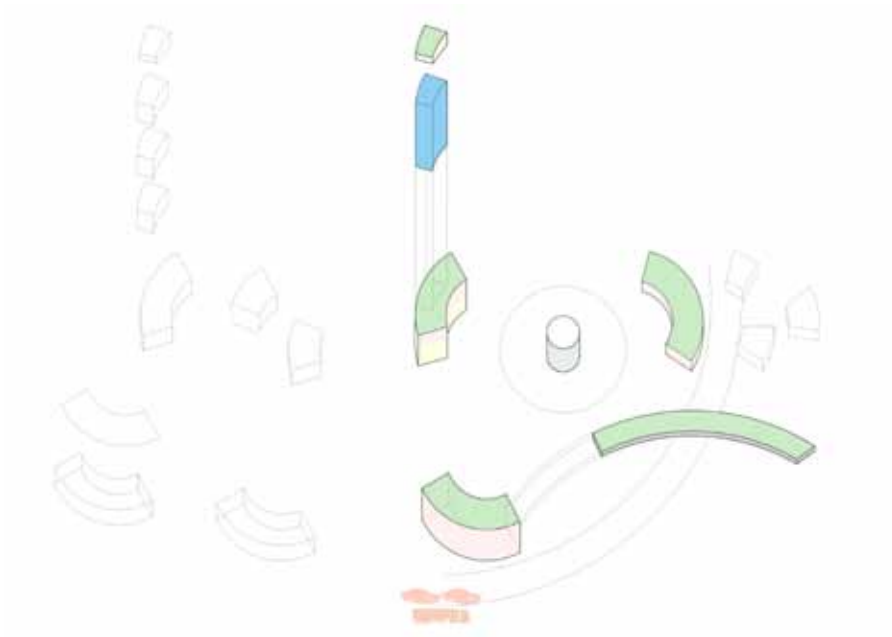
catalyst for change for the surrounding community offering it a supportive environment. Programs include flexible workshops to promote development of skills and self-confidence, commercial units to encourage local business, and green spaces providing a relaxed social space, or agricultural production possibilities in the area.

REFLECTIONS

After meeting with the various organisations involved with Meenan Square, the enthusiasm expressed to us acted as a driver to try and incorporate the level of excitement we experienced from them within our own design proposals. By taking a more radical and conceptual approach we created proposals that could potentially be developed further to create an exciting and vibrant community led space.







Up To The Walls

CLIENT

Friends of the City Wall

STUDENT GROUP

Gavin Gribben, Clement Bonnerat (MArch)

Alice Wilson, Iris Wong, Mim Natcha Iamsumran, Ginny Chen (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

The City of Derry/Londonderry is located on a site full of history, and the walls surrounding it are famous for being one of the best conserved city walls in Europe. The people and the buildings interact with the walls in various ways. However, along the Bogside, there is a large open green space, creating a separation between the city centre and the residents. Terraced houses were once built in front of the wall but were demolished during the troubles.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

The concept of our project is to create a welcoming “home for all” on this site. Our proposal reflects the history of the site and proposes a program for uniting the communities.

The Bogside is located south-west of the walls. We noticed that the district is very closely located to the Fountain area; Bishop street and the green area appears to be the barrier dividing the communities.

When we met with our clients and many members of the community, we soon learnt of their needs, wants and desires for the site. One issue was that there were no places for leisure or recreation in the area, and no place for the community to gather. Another issue was that the green area is not being utilised to its full potential, due to the steep hill, limited parking, and no easy access points for the residents. Furthermore, generating motivation for the locals and encouraging ownership of the space was an important factor in all discussions.

Since the site is one of the few green places in the area, we envisaged a temporary structure – one that would enhance the natural space and greenery already there. One reference that we looked at was Project24, which is situated in Bangor, Co Down. This is a pop-up site, in which six bespoke shipping containers are used as artist studios.

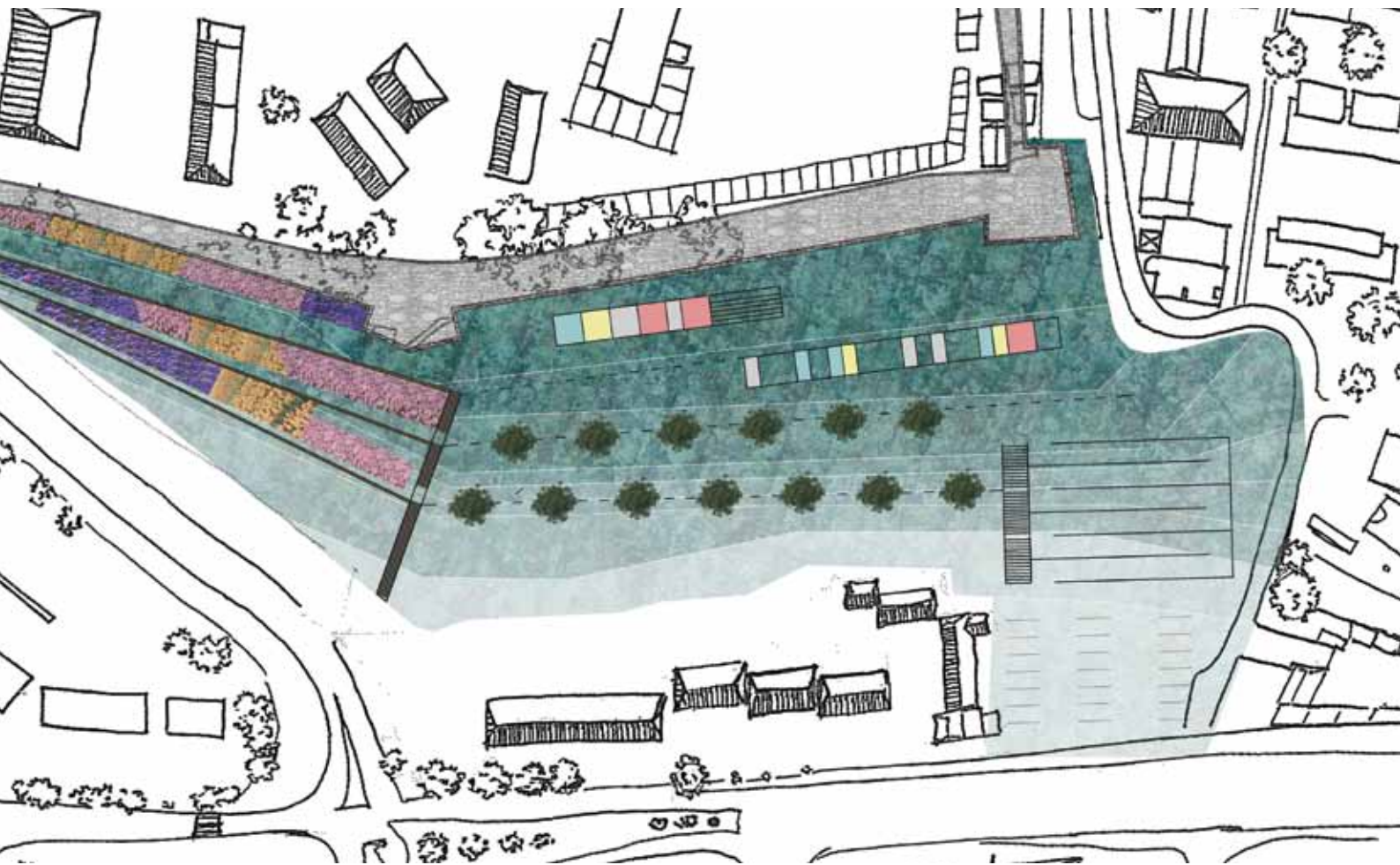
REFLECTIONS

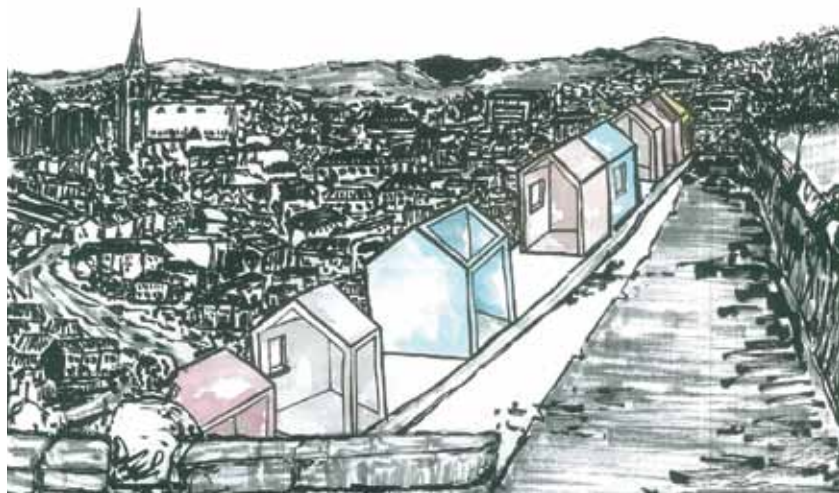
Project24 inspired us to create a pop up space that would be ever changing, while also having artist studios and workshops to teach people arts and crafts. This space also acts as a performance space during the summer months. The idea of having an allotment also adds to the project, as produce and products grown can be sold to generate finance to enhance the local communities.

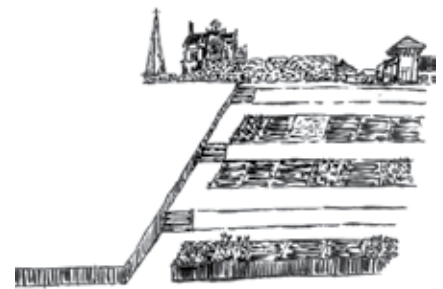
Our design is based on the plan of the terraced houses that used to stand on the site. There are permanent blocks/bases where temporary structures can easily be built or taken down. The concept of a “home for all” blossoms here, where we will have different areas such as “kitchen” for a café which will become the heart of the scheme, “living” for an outdoor cinema / performance space, or the “garden” as allotment plots etc.

Our aim for this project is to create a space in which locals will be a part of, co-building, growing, and selling, but also to create a social space in which the surrounding people and tourists can come together and enjoy.











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LOCATION

North Belfast

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Carr's Glen

CLIENT

North Belfast Alternatives
Ballysillan Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership

STUDENT GROUP

Mark Donnelly, Art Crawford (MArch)
Cathal McMullan, Gabriela Kacprzyk, Sophia Dias-Hudspeth, Duan Ma, Pey Wen Kwang (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

Greater Ballysillan is fortunate to be positioned at the foot of the Belfast Hills. With abundant views across the city, this however remains an underutilised and often forgotten resource. Its potential as a place for outdoor activities is well known within the local community. However, at present, there is no brief to define the type or extent of activities that could take place in the area. The project's aim was to help highlight and celebrate the importance of the hills within the positive health and wellbeing of the local community.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At the beginning of the week the project looked at the opportunity to have activities such as camping, zorbing, zip lines, obstacle courses, mountaineering, biking and orienteering within Carr's Glen. We considered the equipment, storage and facilities necessary for each activity to take place. We also looked at how these activities could be placed on each of the sites within the Glen. It is hoped that through a variety of uses the Glen could be re-established as a civic hub for both young and old.

The proposed park is organised around a number of themed routes through the Glen. Activities and interventions were placed along these routes to create a series of moments in the park. The Glen was considered within the wider context of the hills as both a link and a starting point for walks and biking trails as well as a space for cultural events and sport within the local community.

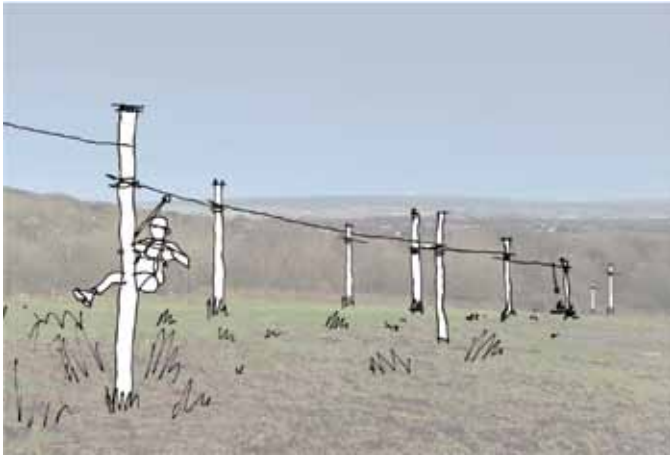
PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

Through drawing and photographing the area, we were able to test a number of different approaches to each of the chosen sites, whilst meeting with local community groups we were able to discuss and develop ideas. The intended outcome of the project was to help develop a brief through a design investigation into what is possible within the Glen. It is hoped that these investigations could lead to further discussions about the future of the park and its role within the local community.

REFLECTIONS

With our studio base in North Belfast we were able to work together with local groups each day. This allowed us to directly engage with the challenges and opportunities of a live project. Through drawing as a medium we could work collectively with others and have an open and flexible discussion about on-going proposals.







PROJECT 5

Remodelling The Green

CLIENT

Boys' Model School
North Belfast Alternatives

STUDENT GROUP

Josephine Neill, Hannah Wilson (MArch)
Moia Nic Fhirleinn, Shannon McKinney, Jack McCauley, Gavin O'Dwyer (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

Boys' Model School and North Belfast Alternatives have been discussing the possibility of utilising a disused site at the back of the school grounds for a restorative education green project. As part of Street Society, QUB students will be working alongside pupils in order to kick-start this exciting project.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As an overall insight into the project, the Queen's Architecture students were working alongside North Belfast Alternatives to establish a restorative education programme within the school and the community surrounding it. The programme offers the chance for community members and the local church to work together with pupils in creating a social enterprise that involves vegetable growing and harvesting with the hope of eventually distributing their crops to local group members such as Good Morning Ballysillan.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

Throughout the week, the design team worked closely with the pupils of Boys' Model and North Belfast Alternatives. As design ideas were quickly established we were able to

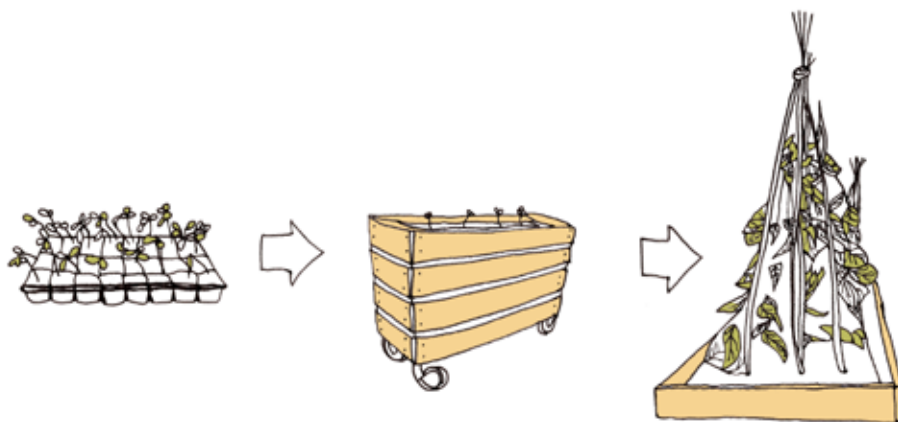
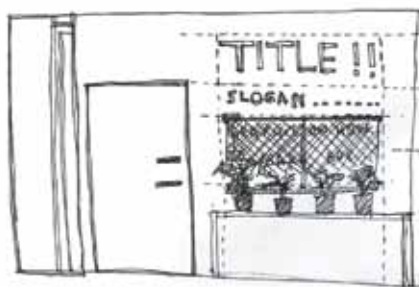
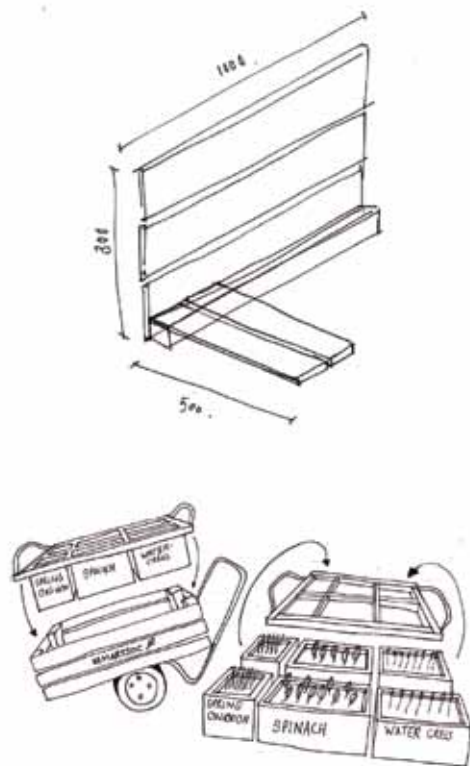
physically implement changes such as revitalising the greenhouse, building a prototype moveable planter, and establishing a brand and identity for the future social enterprise.

REFLECTIONS

Primary to our design process was gaining an understanding what the pupils working with us liked about the new programme. By working with groups of 5 - 6 each day the different ideas and characters that began to come out influenced the design decisions. The pupils we worked alongside during our time at Boys' Model have been paramount to the success of this project, and we really applaud the dedication they have shown to each task.









Landmarking Heritage

STUDENT GROUP

Eunan Deeney, Rachel Graham, Andrew Bryce (MArch)
Anne Cook, Ahmed Ali, Rhys Carson, Sevinç Kübra Çakmak (BSc)

BRIEF

After the Second World War, a third of Irish linen mills were closed and were converted into residential, community and small business buildings as can be seen today. The buildings leave us the memory of Ireland's booming mill history and should be celebrated.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

During the mid 19th century linen and yarn production was a growing industry in Northern Ireland. Belfast was at the heart of this growth, being the fastest area of industrialisation. When power loom weaving was introduced in 1850 the human geography of the area changed as it saw a dramatic increase of people moving from the country to the city, seeking work in the new mills. Between 1803 and 1851 Belfast's population had grown by 80,000 and became the biggest linen producers in the world.

Today the conditions of many of these industrial remnants are deteriorating and in need of refurbishment. In North Belfast, the impact of this industrial heritage can still be seen within the urban fabric of Ardoyne, Marrowbone and Ballysillan. These remaining chimneystacks, factories and mills are important contributors to a sense of local identity and pride. Therefore, the project aimed at helping to celebrate the importance of these landmarks through drawings, photographs and models.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

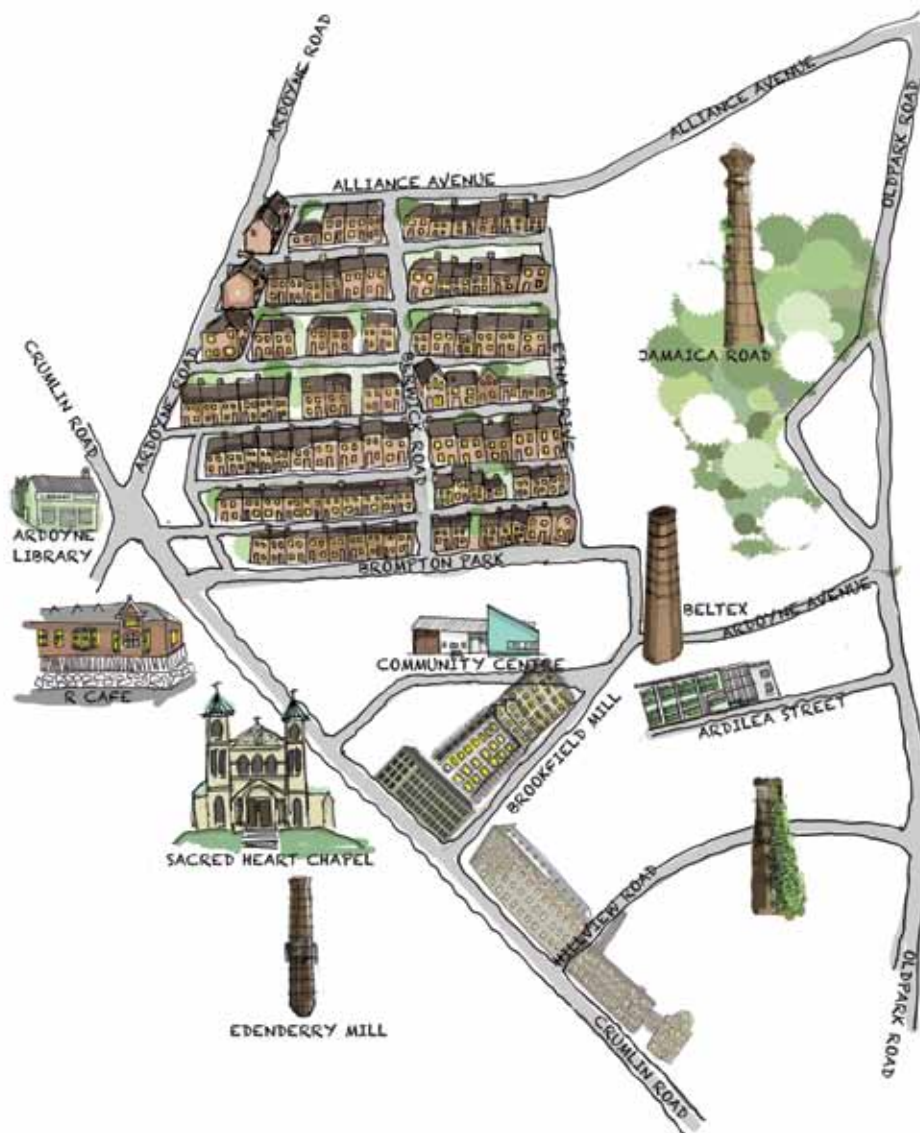
The project began by investigating and documenting the remaining monuments within the landscape. We generated ideas about the protection, reuse and re-integration of these landmarks within their local context.

As a celebration of these historical monuments of North Belfast, the proposal is to illuminate the chimneys, igniting a catalyst of celebration, identity and cohesion. The symbolism of light holds no boundaries and can be seen from across the many divides in the city. The future vision is that with this symbolism the chimneys become a beacon for cultural events bringing people from either side of the divide together in celebration of the rich cultural and industrial history of North Belfast.













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LOCATION

East Belfast

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Pitt Park Plug-Ins

CLIENT

Ballymac Friendship Trust

STUDENT GROUP

Katie Corr, Clare McNamee, Aidan Cunningham (MArch)
Orlaith Maguire, Daniel McCorry, Joshua McKeown, Dylan Merrigan (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

The Ballymac Friendship Trust are currently involved in a Public Realm Project, which connects Newtownards Road and the Titanic Quarter in East Belfast. The local communities are interested in re-developing the site of the annual bonfire, which makes the area currently contested. Students are asked to develop ideas for its potential use throughout the year, while taking the various ambitions of different communities, and their needs into consideration.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Ballymac Friendship Trust is a community group located in a predominantly Protestant area between Belfast's Titanic Quarter and the Lower Newtownards Road. Bonfires are considered a large part of loyalist culture in the area, the contents of which are collected for some months before the celebration on the eleventh night of July at which the bonfires are lit. The focus of this project was to consider the space used for the annual bonfire, and whilst it would continue with this function, its potential for multi-use throughout the rest of the year would be explored. The uses developed were proposed to encourage participation from all members of the community and would contribute to local characteristics as well as tourism interests or the arts.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

Initially, the students were introduced to the local area and the community groups, providing them with an insight into the cultural aspects and the thoughts and ambitions of the community. In response, the students created a phased

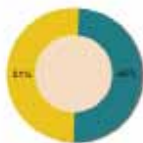
scheme that involves a pit designed as a location for the bonfire, together with a series of 'plug-in' installations which would provide interest for all community members. The proposal includes the replacement of the current hut onsite with shipping containers forming seating, storage, arts room & pop-up stores.

REFLECTIONS

This project has been both complex and challenging for the students to work on and challenged them to think outside the box about how the space could be resolved. They had to comprehend the impact their proposal may have, and assess the risks involved within that. The outcome is therefore something that may not be the solution, but may begin a conversation about the potential the space could have.









Interface Barriers

CLIENT

Short Strand Community Centre

STUDENT GROUP

Martin Carlin, Antoine Trallero, Rebecca Wilson (MArch)
Nurul Abdul Rahman, Dairine Forsythe, Moyagh Gallagher, Toni Kafaliev (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

The Short Strand Community Centre wants to promote an environment which can facilitate cross-community interactions and progress towards a more peaceful and connected city. This project looked to investigate the impact of two main peace walls along Bryson Street and Clandeboye Gardens/ Cluan Place, and to explore possible spatial interventions which can instigate cross-community conversation and regeneration.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Short Strand is located along the east of the River Lagan and is a Catholic residential area on the edge of predominantly Protestant East Belfast. During the Troubles the conflict in the area over religion and politics caused the erection of peace walls, which mark the clear boundaries between the different residential spaces.

The project looks at ways of 'softening' the impact of the peace walls through spatial ideas which focus on reconnection and creating benefits for both communities on either side of the walls. Our introduction to the area provided insights of local views, which want the walls removed for future generations. However they do not feel safe for this to happen at present. It was therefore important for us to include the walls in our design and acknowledge the need for a feeling of safety until trust can be rebuilt between the communities.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

The project started with a tour from one of the locals and our meeting with the client, which gave us an insight into the

area. From an examination of the plan and walking through the site, we were able to highlight three areas along the walls which are currently underused. From this we explored, through models and sketches, ways of reconnecting areas across the wall and providing social interaction.

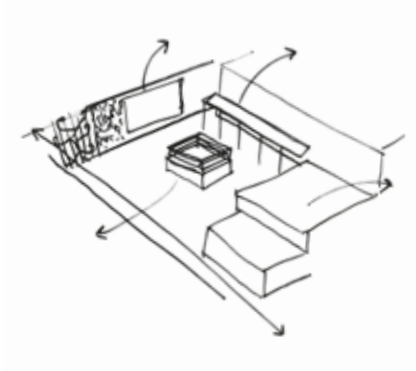
REFLECTIONS

The complexity of the project challenged us to think differently and required a close listening to local views in order to understand that a simple removal of the walls was not a solution. The project became about interventions which can adapt over time and allow the degrading of the walls while providing immediate benefits to the present residents. It is important to emphasize that we have not provided a complete solution but rather a masterplan to question the use (or lack of) certain spaces along the interface, so that this can be used as a tool to create conversation about future possibilities for the area.











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LOCATION

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South Belfast



Bridging The Gap

CLIENT

Markets Development Association

STUDENT GROUP

Nicholas Thom, Amy Meddings (MArch)
Fearghal Rooney, Masako Chan, Ciara Higgins (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

The client has asked the Street Society Group to look at the strip of land between the Gasworks and the Markets, with a focus towards linking the Markets back to the city and Ormeau Park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Following on from Street Society 2016, when students worked with the Markets Development Association in South Belfast to consider the redevelopment of the Lanyon Tunnels, this project looks at the strip of land that currently acts as a barrier between the Markets (residential community) and the Gasworks (offices, commercial and leisure). The strip of land is comprised of six plots. Each site has an existing proposed masterplan, consisting of a landmark corner site, with a backpackers hostel alongside some office and retail accommodations, a hotel extension, a new office block and a multi storey carpark.

The students examined the proposed masterplan, evaluated its impact on both the Markets and the Gasworks, and propose an altered masterplan that bridges the gap between these neighbouring sites, taking into account the concerns of both communities. Currently the Markets area consists primarily of low density housing in its core areas, and along its perimeter are some newer three storey housing blocks adjacent to the hotel plots. The project look at creating direct links between the Markets and the Gasworks and the wider city to take advantage of the proposed new pedestrian bridge across the Lagan River, linking the Gasworks to Ormeau Park and beyond.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

We began by modelling the existing masterplan. This consisted of large block buildings which we then compared to the street layout from 1901, and the impact these would

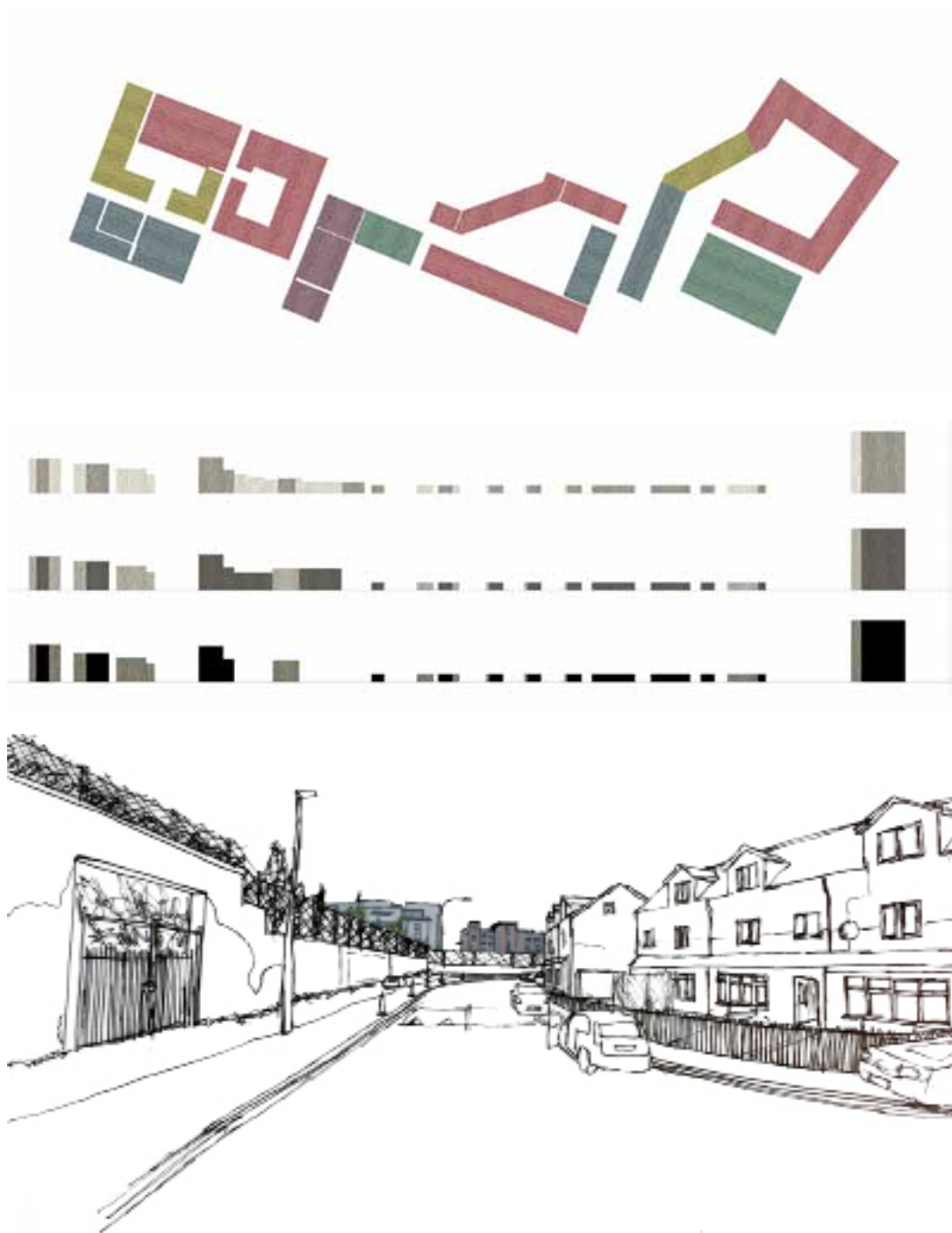
have upon the current built environment. We then examined the potential use of each plot in relation to a settled, distinctive yet disadvantaged community to one side and a transient and affluent district to the other. We also examined it in relation to the neighbouring plots and the wider city. The 1901 plan was used as a reference to the placing of new routes to bridge the gap between the Markets and the Gasworks, one of which creates a direct route towards the towpath and the proposed bridge to Ormeau Park. The scale of the buildings was also addressed, proposing mediation in the height but increasing the density of building footprints. With the Markets' close ties to St Georges Market, the project also proposes the Markets to become an ancillary garden for St Georges Market, growing flowers and vegetables, to become a source of income for residents.

REFLECTIONS

With this design, the group has proposed a masterplan that mediates between the Markets and the Gasworks, including provision for social enterprise initiatives that will benefit the Markets community, commercial space for the Gasworks, and greater parking provision. The creation of links between the Markets and Gasworks better connects the Markets to the rest of the city, with more immediate links to the Lagan towpath and the Gasworks. The proposed masterplan, will provide more housing to meet the demand for more residential space, while providing more activity on the Gasworks site at night. Green spaces will soften the urban landscape, making the Markets a more attractive place to live.









The Play Station

CLIENT

Donegall Pass Community Forum

STUDENT GROUP

Edward McKeown, Muthu Arunachalam, Adrienne Barr (MArch)
Karthic Vivenhanatha, Luke Murray, Jenna Daley, Ewa Cichon, Mac'Avane Boca (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

Our brief as set out by the client was to provide ideas for a community child care facility that could become a centre of excellence for play in Belfast, considering potential clients that could be attracted to the building, such as Solas and Playboard. The brief asked that we provided a base and exhibition space for the upcoming Donegall Pass Walking Tours group. Finally, a 'Men's Shed' social space was also desired by the client.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing site at Donegall Pass features a four storey Edwardian-era building, built in 1906, which served as a police station for much of the 20th century, recently decommissioned in January 2016. The site also has one of the last remaining WWII bomb shelters within its boundary.

After conducting some research, we believed that gardens and outdoor play areas would be key to the educational spaces which form this project. These could then be complimented by sleep rooms, sensory rooms and more individual spaces. Interaction with different age groups could take place through an expansion of the existing community gardens. Playboard, Solas, the walking tours and the 'Men's Shed' would begin to create interaction between different age groups.

To ensure the building maintains a street presence throughout the day and into the evening, different spaces within could be used freely by the local community for social clubs and events.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

From consultation with the client, we established the need for a whole site strategy to enliven the area. Creating a new shared surface street to the west of the site would increase connectivity and activity around the site. This would allow for a separate entrance and better natural light for the day care facility.

By taking the existing building back to its original form, we proposed a new extension that would wrap around the boundary of the site, creating a new internal courtyard with direct access to the day care facility.

The walking tour base, cafe and exhibition space become the main street frontage at ground floor with the very unique bomb shelter taking centre stage to attract visitors. Playboard and Solas would be accommodated above, facing Donegall Pass. As the building rises it creates a changing roof scape of different levels which allow kids to run freely and safely in an urban setting, with visual links within and beyond.











LOCATION

West Belfast

Modelling Colin

CLIENT

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership

STUDENT GROUP

Jamie Jackson, Ben Stevenson, Katie Stringer (MArch)
Darcy Carroll, Jack McElroy, Christopher McKernan, Ciaran McMurrough, Brandon Shaw (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

To develop a method of representation which effectively communicates the changing developments of the proposed Colin Town Centre design.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To begin the week, we investigated the Colin area and opened a dialogue with members of the local community. This interaction greatly improved our understanding of the Colin Town Centre scheme and informed our model making.

It was noted how Colin has been frequently viewed as a periphery in both Belfast and Lisburn. The use of terms such as 'identity', 'periphery', 'beacon', and 'centre' suggested that many locals lack a sense of ownership of the place. It was also apparent that recent changes to the Colin Town Centre development were being lost in translation, as the masterplan drawings, used to communicate the scheme, were often missing the elements of form and scale.

To try and address these issues, we decided to build a portable, working model which could be utilized by the people of Colin. This was to be an object of discussion which could be updated and interacted with, rather than presented as a finished, fixed outcome.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

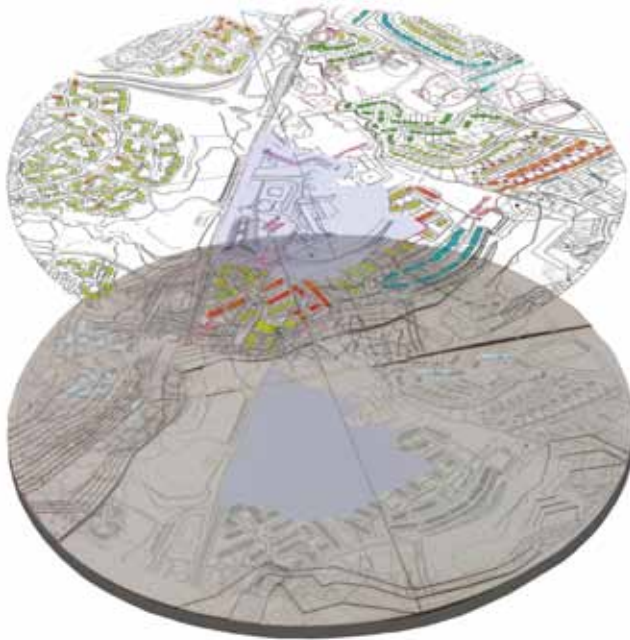
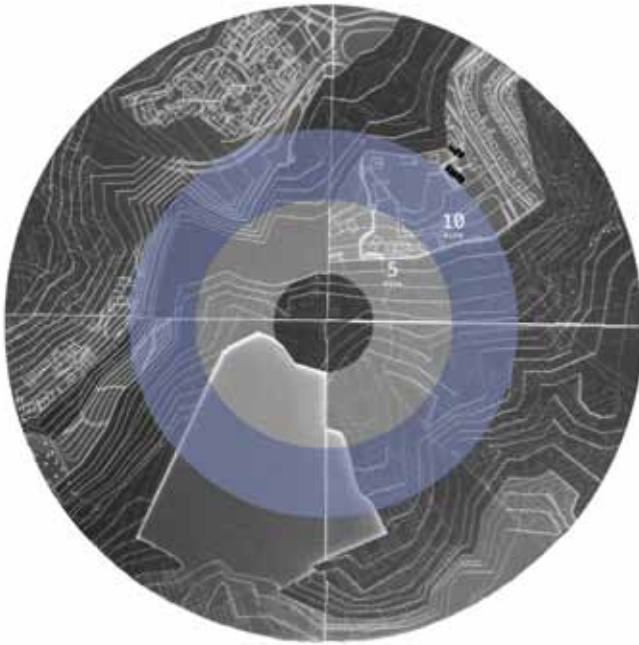
Information from first hand photographs, sketches, survey maps, topographical maps and proposed masterplans was collated to produce a physical 1:1000 scale model which could be used to convey current and future proposals for Colin.

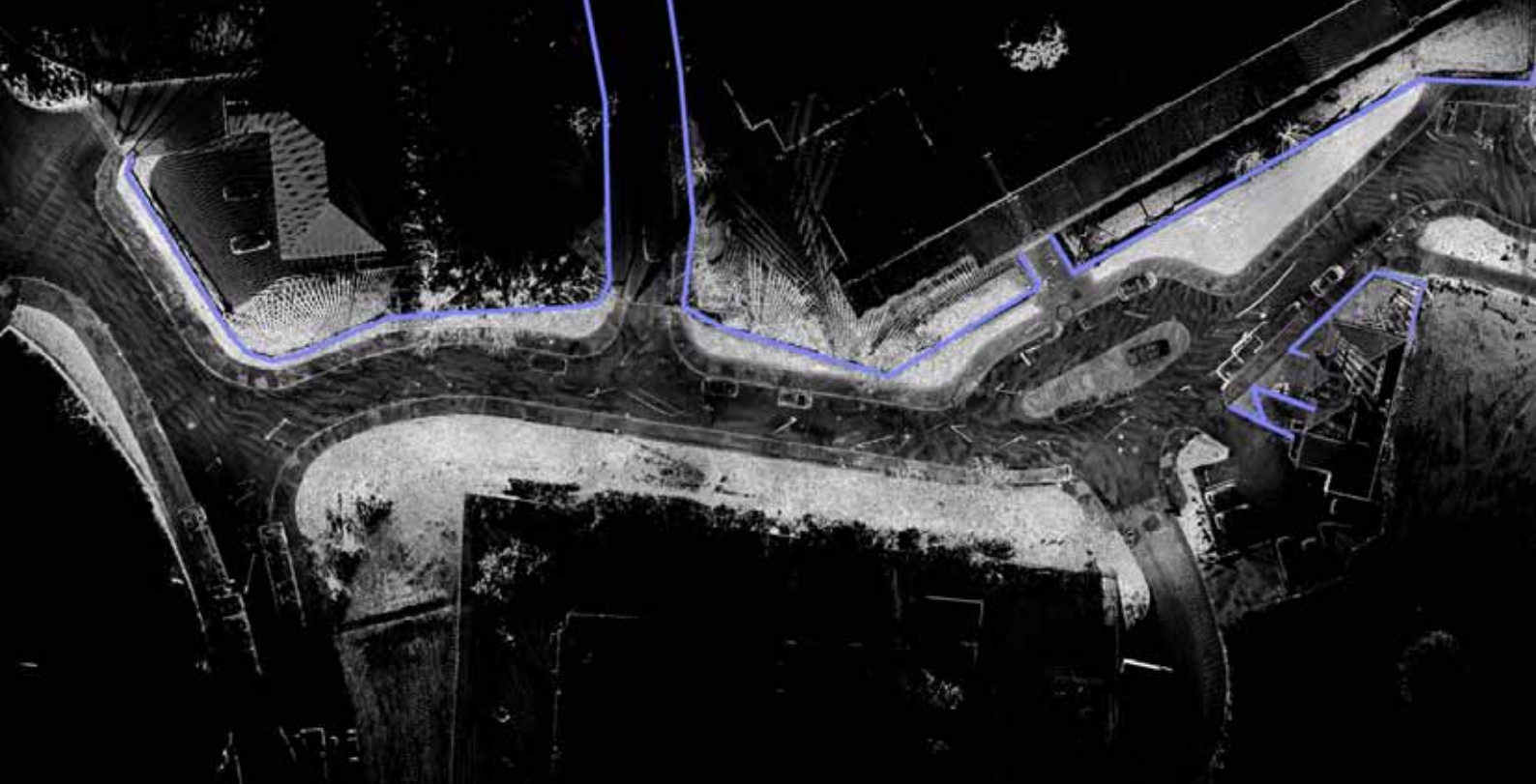
A three-dimensional snapshot of the area was captured using the emerging modelling technique of 3D laser scanning. This digital process was able to record features of the existing built environment quickly and in great detail. The resulting images attempt to illustrate the future possibilities of communication between designer and client.

REFLECTIONS

The study of the community, place and three-dimensional representation offered two particularly valuable insights. Firstly, how the design of the built environment can influence those who live within and secondly, the importance of model-making as an effective tool of communication.







To Square Or Not To Square

CLIENT

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership

STUDENT GROUP

Ciaran Magee, Linda Smyth, Sarah Wright (MARCH)
Aine Lynch, George Kelly, Marcellus Davin, Matthew Graham (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

After speaking with the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, we gathered that the Colin area consists of several disconnected communities. The client asked us to study how these communities can function harmoniously within the proposed masterplan for the area, as well as providing a means of illustrating to the community that they will have one multi-purpose event space in the proposed new Colin town square, instead of a series of disjointed event locations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project aims to investigate how the surrounding communities of Colin will interact within the new proposed town square space. Looking at the proposed masterplan and analysing the impact on the surrounding area, we came to question what communities need from the space and how the space will be used during annual events?

An investigation was carried out to determine how sound is used in urban squares with the aim of comparing several urban public squares of Belfast city centre to the new Colin Civic Square. Points for discussion were:

- Identifying the community groups that will be using the new space and what events already exist
- Investigating existing public spaces and comparing to the new design for Colin
- Investigating how people occupy space
- Proposing a series of temporary installations to enhance the space.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

The main outcome of the project was to inform the community about the project and what it means for the area by providing a series of easy-to-read images that reflect the improved quality of life. We also carried out sonic mapping to compare other urban squares to the proposed site.

REFLECTIONS

As this process focused on the fractured communities of Colin, the aim of the proposed design was to create a safe and more friendly space for community activities. The new Community Hub and the proposed park will create the activity needed to make the civic square work. However, sound prevention measures such as greenery, speed preventative paving and perhaps a water feature will be needed to mask the sound of traffic on and around the site.









Footprinting

CLIENT

Footprints Women's Centre

STUDENT GROUP

Edward Mitchem, Shauneen Donaghy (MArch)
Kayleigh Colgan, Michah Crenshaw, Mohammed Abu-Khadra, Shauneen Cavanagh (BSc)

CLIENT BRIEF

The Footprints Women's Centre requested for an update to the arrangement of the interior space to better suit their current need. The director of Footprints Women's Centre, Gillian, has worked in the centre since 1993, and has seen the growth and expansion of the building. She had a keen interest in architecture and accentuated the involvement of herself and the local women in the community in the design process. She wanted to make sure that the Centre was "as much as possible designed by the local people."

The client was quite precise in her brief as to what she wanted from the project, therefore, it was our duty to transfer this into drawings. Surveying was conducted alongside research of the design company's architectural archives and the drawings that were produced for the project.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Footprints Women's Centre is located in the Collin Mill Housing Estate in West Belfast. The centre was built in 2000 and caters successfully in layout for the needs of the centre. It provides a series of programmes and facilities for women and children in the area. There are facilities for children, refuge, education and community support groups. The centre aims to support women in returning to work and managing home life. They provide both long-term and emergency support, which means their work is both essential and adapting.

PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

Our proposal is to knock down a division wall and create an operable partition wall in its place in order to create a large multifunctional room, alongside the director's office.

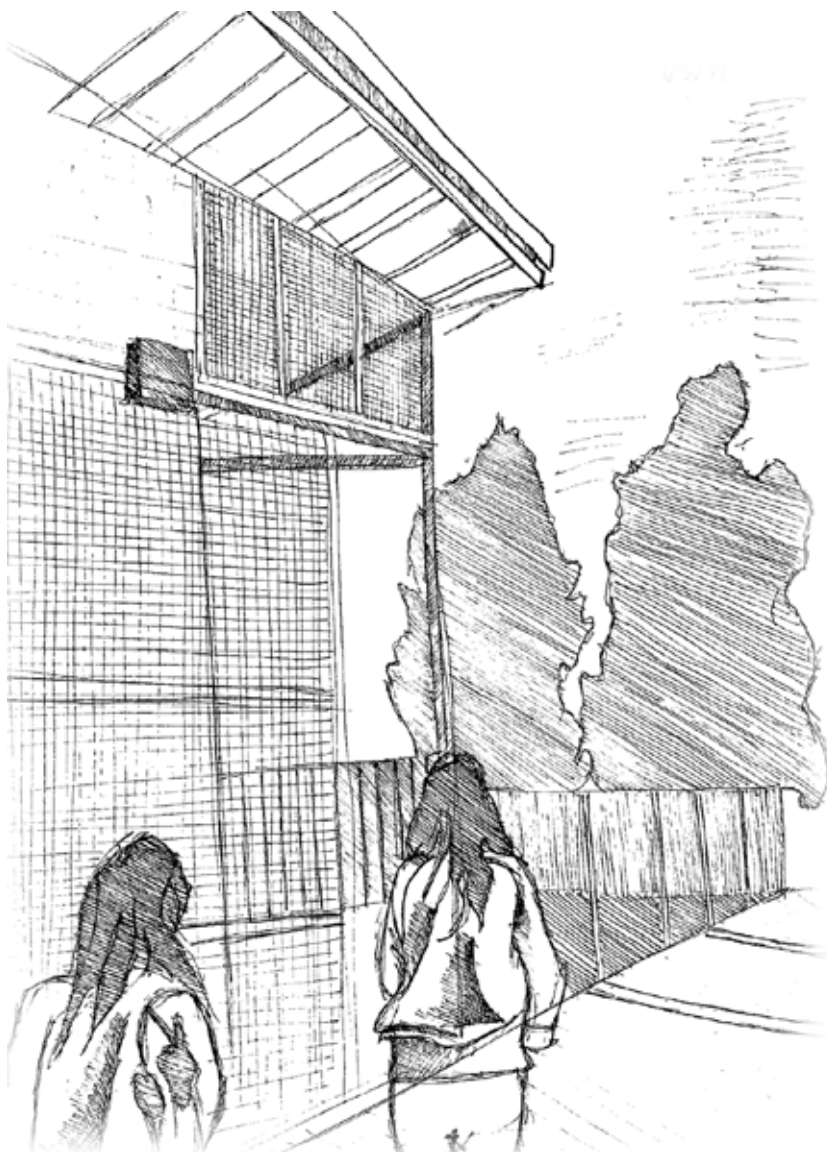
Therefore, it could be used for board meetings, training, and other activities such as yoga or art therapy. The modification of the wall structure will enable a more versatile space.

There is also a drainage problem to be considered as the water settles outside the wall of the room which is a concern for the sustainability of the sensory garden. To resolve this, we plan to expand the centre's current fruit and vegetable garden so that the plants will absorb the water, reducing the flooding from the river beneath the building.

REFLECTIONS

The project gave us the opportunity and experience to work alongside a client, teaching us to listen and address the client's needs with consideration of functionality, design and funding.







International Observers

For the last two years Street Society has invited international observers to witness the final day of presentations in each of the community locations. Their role is to bring an external and international perspective, helping us to reflect on the value of the work and the project overall. This year, all three observers also brought their own longstanding experience and concern for live projects in community contexts.

Prue Chiles

Professor of Architectural Design Research,
University of Newcastle

SHEFFIELD, 10TH MARCH 2017

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The Street Society projects showed just how much can be done in a week, with good organisation, support and engaged students and clients. I came to Belfast thinking I was going to look at some short projects in the city and went away feeling I had witnessed a phenomenon of sorts.

Some key themes emerged during the day in various locations: crossing boundaries, working with local groups and responding to critical and complex social and cultural and political issues. Some inspirational imagery and different media drew in the public, creatively offering tangible ideas. Working with school children to make a better school greenhouse, created a range of transferrable ideas for the whole neighbourhood. Models appeared in virtually all the projects; they took on a life of their own, becoming a realisation of what architecture promises, but also holding the capacity to represent a diversity of intentions in a very direct manner. They can be packed away in boxes to come out again when needed.

Even though the teams were only present for a week, relationships were formed, their presence felt, and a reciprocity developed that left a mark.

The projects in North, South, West and East Belfast seemed to inhabit the whole city.

Jim Seger

Director of City Mine(d),
London and Brussels

BRUSSELS, 7TH MARCH 2017

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Having seen Live projects evolve over the past decade, I was particularly impressed by the real impact Street Society has. The 2017 edition introduced me to residents, who are better able to interact with the development schemes awaiting them, to people surprised by the potential they have been surrounded with all their lives, and to communities able to envisage futures different from what they thought unavoidable.

As such, the Live projects of Street Society are not just a reality check for students, confronting them with the wide scope of the architect's profession, but they are also an inspiration for the diverse patchwork that makes up Belfast. They are a rare and unique combination of pedagogy, urban development, architecture and community action.

From City Mine(d) perspective, I can only say congratulations to Queen's and Urban Villages for making this possible, congratulations to the students for engaging so actively with the brief and challenges, and well done to the communities that helped light sparks, some of which might become Belfast's bonfires of the future.

Emmett Scanlon

Architect and Lecturer at
University College Dublin

DUBLIN, 3RD MARCH 2017

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This week, a whole lot of brilliant bright intelligent and clearly fabulous students in Queen's University Belfast, working in the Street Society live project program with five communities, negotiated politics, history, anger, truancy, sectarianism, ugliness and disappointment and used their heads and hearts and hands to share ideas, offer courage, humour, support and hope, all the time welcoming the knowledge, inspiration, expertise and ambition from the children and adults they worked with, presenting their collective work today without nerves or anxiety, always smiling.

Unusually for an architectural crit we all talked about being human and loving and feeling and doing and hearing and cooperating and presenting, representing, acting and changing - but together. Of course advice was offered based on experience, but it was offered in every direction.

I am exhausted at the criticism of young people and their so-called sensitivities. They are, in my experience, resilient. The young people I met today, like all young people I meet, are a resource and our allies and can act in and for society when supported to do so. We don't need to wait for them to "grow up" or qualify or be "professionals" or to patronise them in this or any other way - given a chance and given the means and considered support they can find their own voice and can help change our world right now and in the future.

Education, at its best, works both ways and today we were all learning.



Acknowledgments

STREET SOCIETY 2017 was organised by
Professor Ruth Morrow, Ryan Hamill and Mirjami Schuppert.

CLIENTS

Footprints Women's Centre
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership
Boys' Model School
Ballysillan Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership
Newgate Arts Centre
Friends of the City Wall
Dove House
Youth First
Ballymac Friendship Trust
Reach
Short Strand Community Centre
Markets Development Association
Donegall Pass Community Forum

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

Prue Chiles
Professor of Architectural Design Research, University of Newcastle;
Jim Segers
Director of City Mine(d), London and Brussels;
Emmett Scanlon
Architect and lecturer at University College Dublin

MARCh INVIGILATORS

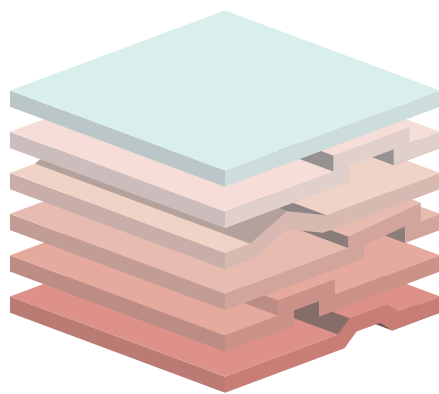
Aaron Farrell
Mark Donnelly
Eve Russell
Katie Corr
Andrew English

DESIGN | Glenn Kennedy, Brett Mahon & Jamie Neish

PHOTOGRAPHY OF FINAL PRESENTATIONS | X-Ray Eye Films

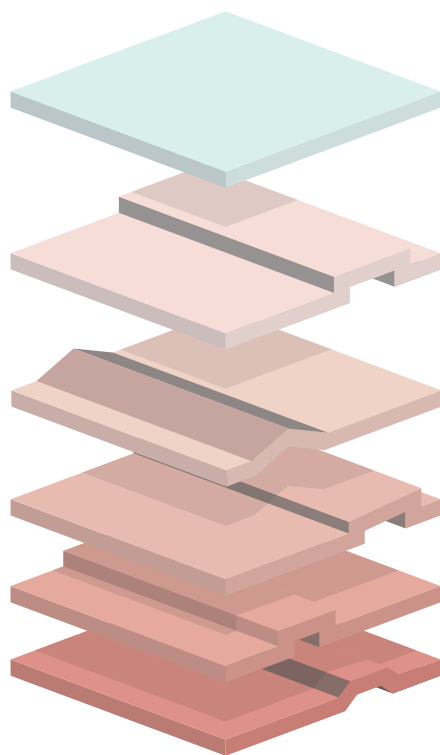
Many thanks to the Urban Villages team.





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